

COLUMBIA.

Friday Morning, January 17, 1868.

The Upward Shoot of Gold.

The New York papers are considerably exercised at the extraordinary upward movement in gold since the beginning of the year, in face of the immense gold disbursements of the Treasury during the last fortnight. This advance has doubtless surprised financial men and speculators, as well as the general public. The rampant gold gambling of the last few days is undoubtedly stimulated by the late vote by which the Senate—thirty to seventeen—resolved that it would not be pledged against a fresh inflation of the currency. Many of the "bull" purchases of gold "on time" have been made either directly on account of parties in Washington, or on the strength of confidential advices from that quarter. Thus gold has been pushed up above 40 per cent. premium; and it is now reported that John Sherman (Chairman of the Senate's Finance Committee) has demonstrated in favor of a "moderate expansion." At the close of the year, gold stood at 133 to 134—to which point it had fallen on the improved political prospects, as indicated by the failure of impeachment and other revolutionary schemes. But, simultaneously with the meeting of Congress, last week, it began to rush upward, and has continued to advance, till Monday it reached 141. Such an inopportune rise—as 8 per cent. in about as many days—seems almost incredible. During all this time, too, the Treasury has been engaged in disbursing, as rapidly as possible, the \$31,000,000 (gold) due in January for interest, etc.—a sum which, it was generally supposed, would surely depress the price, or at least prevent the possibility of its rising. The cause of this sudden rise in gold, (or depression of the public credit,) is evidently due to a fear of the action of Congress, financial and political, and to reported propositions for inflation and financial distraction, as well as of schemes for violent political disturbance. Recent movements in Washington have given enough color to these rumors to make them felt more widely than ordinary street rumors. People are ready to believe almost anything of a Congress, which can entertain such measures as have lately been introduced. In this connection, we notice that a Republican County Convention, at the capital of Indiana, has unanimously resolved that the principal of all United States bonds, which do not expressly specify that they are payable in coin, shall be paid in legal tender. In other words—that the Government shall, in a time of peace, fix and alter the value of its debt of two and a half billions of its own good pleasure.

A GREAT COUNTRY.—Another section of twenty miles has been finished upon the Union Pacific Railroad. This completes the national thoroughfare to the 540th mile-post, and takes the locomotive to within ten miles of the summit of the Black Hills. Meanwhile, a steady influx of settlers into the region opened to occupation and trade by means of this road, is giving assurance of future wealthy and vigorous States. Cheyenne, the frontier city, which, six months ago, was unknown, has its churches, schools, hotels, theatres and daily newspapers, and its shrewd business men are in active correspondence with their neighbors at Denver, 100 miles to the Southward, respecting the construction of the branch railroad to that mining capital. The miners and capitalists of Idaho are discussing the project of another branch to the North, and the saints at Salt Lake, already within five days' ride of Omaha, are impatient even of that consumption of time, and anxiously await its reduction to forty-eight hours. In all these local enterprises, which add to the importance and traffic of this great railway line, the entire country is interested. America beats the world.

A company of colored troops are quartered in Charleston at present, but it is said will leave for the interior in a few days.

The Reconstruction Convention.

SECOND DAY.

CHARLESTON, January 15, 1868.—The Convention was opened with prayer by B. F. Randolph, delegate from Orangeburg.

The roll of delegates being called, 109 responded to their names—seventeen more being present than on the preceding day.

After some discussion as to members not having certificates of identification, the hall-keeper was appointed door-keeper until a permanent organization.

The body then went into an informal ballot for President.

A recess of fifteen minutes was moved and carried, to allow the delegates to prepare their ballots. At the close of the recess, the ballots were cast, and on being counted the result was as follows: A. G. Mackey, white, delegate from Charleston, 74 votes; B. F. Whittemore, delegate from Darlington, 37 votes; Thomas J. Robertson, white, delegate from Richland, and temporary chairman, 1 vote; James M. Rutland, white, delegate from Fairfield, 1 vote. Not a single colored man received a vote for the office of President.

After the tellers had made their report, the temporary chairman announced that A. G. Mackey, having received a majority of the votes cast, was duly elected permanent chairman of the Convention.

This was an error of which he was immediately reminded by several delegates, who stated, simultaneously, or nearly so, that the ballot was simply an informal one.

This being the fact, and the chairman withdrawing the announcement, a white delegate moved that the election of A. G. Mackey be declared unanimous.

At the request of B. F. Whittemore, white, the motion was withdrawn, and Whittemore, in a short speech, withdrew in favor of Mackey.

On motion of Gilbert Pillsbury, white, delegate from Charleston, the election of Mackey was declared unanimous.

E. J. Ransier, a light colored delegate from Charleston, then moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait on the newly elected chairman, and invite him to take his seat as President of the Convention. The motion being adopted by the house, the temporary chairman appointed E. J. Ransier, light colored delegate from Charleston; B. F. Whittemore, white Yankee delegate from Darlington, and R. C. DeLarge, light colored delegate from Charleston, a committee of three to wait on A. G. Mackey, the newly elected permanent chairman, and introduce him to the Convention.

In assuming the duties of his office, Dr. Mackey addressed the body as follows:

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: While I return you my thanks for the honor that you have conferred on me, by selecting me to preside over your deliberations, I confess that I assume the Chair with great diffidence as to my capability to discharge its duties. I can, however, safely promise a determination to perform the important task with the strictest impartiality, and with all the judgment in my power.

The position in which your kindness has placed me will necessarily preclude me from a general participation in the debates of the house, and will condemn me to silence on many questions, on which, if I were on the floor, I would wish to be heard. You will, perhaps, therefore, pardon me, if I take the present occasion, once for all, to define my position and to express my sentiments on some of the great topics which are now agitating our country.

The Convention in which we are now sitting is marked by two peculiarities, which have distinguished no other Convention that has preceded it in South Carolina—peculiarities which demand for it the commendation of every lover of liberty and respecter of human rights.

Convened, as I contend it has been—for else I had not been here—by competent legal authority, it is the first Constitutional Convention in this State, in the selection of whose members the ballot-box, the true palladium of national liberty, has been made accessible to every man who was not disqualified by legal or political crime. In the call for the five South Carolina Conventions which have preceded it, and which were held 1776, in 1777, in 1790, in 1860, and in 1865, but a portion of the people were permitted to exercise the elective franchise, because slavery, that vile relic of barbarism, had thrown its blighted influence upon the minds of the people, and, for the noble doctrine that governments were constituted for the good of the whole was substituted that anti-republican one, that they were intended only for the benefit of one class at the expense of another. But in the call for this body, every true man who could labor for the support or fight for the defence of the Commonwealth, has been invited to a representation. Manhood suffrage has, for the first time, been invoked to convene a body which is to make the fundamental law for all. This is, then, truly and emphatically, a people's Convention—a Convention

by the representatives of all who have minds to think—and to think for themselves, or muscle to work—and to work for themselves.

Again. In the five Constitutional Conventions held in the State, to which I have already alluded, the fundamental law therein framed was made a finality. The people were ignored as a part of the body politic by the Convention, which declared itself as possessed of despotic and irresponsible authority, and, in every instance, refused to submit its proceedings, and the constitution which it had framed, to the people for their ratification. This was but a natural and necessary result of the influence of the political sentiment that then prevailed. It was but consistent that those who deemed one-half of their fellow-citizens to be chattels should forget or overlook the manhood of the other half.

But we, who in these days, when the rising beams of political truth promise, after so much storm, a brighter sky for the Republic, we who are emerging from that cloud of false opinion into the full sunshine of that truth, know and claim ourselves to be only the representatives of the people. We arrogantly assume no final action, no irresponsible power, recognizing the rights of all men, of all races, the poor as well as the rich, the ignorant as well as the wise—of all men who make the State their home and identify themselves with its interests. We dare not present to them an organic law for their government, as something with which they have nothing to do but to hear it and obey. Our work here is not to be considered as completed until the people shall have reviewed it and ratified it. Not we, ourselves, but they who sent us here, are to say whether we deserve the reward of a "well done, good and faithful servants." For the first time in the history of South Carolina, will the people be recognized as the true framers of their own organic law. Of such a Convention, organized on the great acknowledged principles of Democratic Republicanism, I am proud to be a member; far more proud to sit here beneath the folds of that beloved flag, which is this day floating from our roof, than I should have been to have been in that other body which met in this city in 1860, with no such loyal symbol to protect it, but which rather sought to tear its stripes to tatters and to dash its stars to the earth.

Yielding to none in sentiments of devotion for that flag of my fathers, and in abhorrence of every sentiment of disloyalty and treason to that Government, to which I owe a paramount allegiance, I yet have no vindictive feelings towards those of my fellow-citizens who were led by the abstractions of their political leaders to entertain different and opposing sentiments—sentiments which I deemed errors, but which they believed to be truths. I grant to them that liberty of thought which I demand for myself. Hence, I profess myself to be a moderate man. I am opposed to all confiscations of property, because the confiscation of all the lands of rebel owners in the State can have no effect in promoting the welfare of that State, in elevating its political condition, or advancing its commercial and agricultural prosperity. I am opposed to any general disfranchisement of the masses of the people. It is too late now to disfranchise as a punishment for treason. Punishment should be inflicted for the sake of reform. To inflict it now would be only to gratify revenge. I want no more disfranchisement, either as to number of persons, or as to duration of time, than is absolutely necessary to secure the safety of the nation, and if that can be secured by none at all then would I favor a general amnesty.

I call God to witness, that in taking my seat in this august body, I do so only because I desire to contribute what little abilities or influence I may have to the restoration of peace and harmony, and for the establishment of such a Constitution or form of Government for my native State as will secure to every man in the Commonwealth an equal share of political rights, will protect us in the future from the errors which have led to our present unhappy condition, and will speedily rehabilitate the State, as a constituent part of the great national confederation.

With this expression of my sentiments, which will not, however, control me in the important administration of the office to which you have assigned me, I am now prepared to take my place as your presiding officer, at the same time invoking your indulgence for any unintentional errors that I may commit, and your earnest co-operation in preserving the dignity and decorum of the body.

The speech was frequently interrupted with applause, and occasionally with cries of "Hear! hear!" and the speaker took his seat among loud plaudits, having evidently acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the Convention.

W. J. Whipper, delegate from Beaufort, but a negro lawyer from Michigan, and one of the most intelligent members, moved that the rules of the United States House of Representatives be adopted as the

rules of the Convention. The motion was carried.

The thanks of the Convention were then unanimously voted to T. J. Robertson, white, delegate from Richland, for his services as temporary chairman.

The President laid before the Convention a communication from F. A. Sawyer, white, a delegate from Charleston, resigning his position, which was accepted.

The rules were suspended, and C. J. Stallbrand, said to be a Dane, who once commanded Sherman's light (fingered?) artillery, was elected secretary by acclamation.

N. G. Parker, white, delegate from Barnwell, but an ex-captain of negro troops, and since the war a resident of Charleston, and in no way connected with the District of Barnwell, offered a resolution that the Convention should elect the following additional officers, viz: an assistant secretary, an engrossing clerk, a door-keeper, and assistant door-keeper, and a chaplain, and that the chair should appoint three messengers.

F. J. Moses, jr., of Sumter, said that he was opposed in toto to that part of the resolution which looked to the election of a chaplain. As far as he was individually concerned, he was opposed to the services of any chaplain, and opposed to having these proceedings opened with prayer. The truth which had been held so sacred in the past has been of late so prostituted in all legislative bodies, that there was a great probability it would be prostituted here, and instead of prayers we should have simply political harangues in the guise of a sacred invocation. Furthermore, he held it to be incumbent upon the delegates to have some respect for the Treasury of the State. The people were poor, and where there were so many chaplains on the floor, he thought it unwise and injudicious to add to the expenditure to be entailed upon the State by reason of these deliberations.

B. F. Randolph, colored, of Orangeburg, said he was strongly in favor of the election of a chaplain, because it was the custom in Congress, in the Legislature, and, as far as he was informed, in other Conventions which had been held. No one on the floor could possibly more respect the Treasury of the State than himself, but he could not respect it so much as to ignore religion and overlook God.

L. S. Langley, colored, of Beaufort, agreed with the delegate from Sumter, that there were clergymen enough in the Convention to open the proceedings with prayer, without taxing unnecessarily the Treasury of the State; and he hoped that they would be patriotic enough to discharge this duty to the Convention and the State, without drawing \$8 a day for their services.

It was finally agreed that the Chair should appoint a chaplain from among the members of the Convention, to open its proceedings daily with prayer.

The motion to have three messengers appointed for the Convention by the Chairman, seemed to strike some of the members as an unusual and uncalled-for luxury. J. J. Wright, delegate from Beaufort, but an ex-member of the United States Colored Troop, and a pure blooded negro, expressed his opinion on the subject plainly, and said he could not see the use of so many messengers to wait on the Convention, when most of the members had been brought up to wait on themselves.

Paul M. Poinsett was elected assistant secretary; Wm. R. Mitchell, engrossing clerk; E. Conway, sergeant-at-arms; Peter Miller, assistant sergeant-at-arms; Samuel Dickinson, door-keeper, and John Fitzsimons, (of Columbia,) assistant door-keeper. All colored.

B. C. DeLarge, colored, notified the Convention that he would, tomorrow, move for a reconsideration of the vote by which Conway was elected sergeant-at-arms, it having been proclaimed that the person aforesaid was incompetent to discharge the duties of the office.

The next election in order being that of messengers; one of the parties nominated was Alexander Bryce, Jr., a white man, of Pickens, concerning whom and whose career in connection with the murder of Miles M. N. Hunniet, considerable discussion ensued, in which he was complimented and defended as a loyal man, who has suffered on account of his principles.

On a ballot being taken, either of the respective candidates failed to receive a majority, and on motion of R. C. DeLarge, the Convention adjourned at 12 o'clock—midnight.

THE COTTON TAX.—A large number of the leading merchants, manufacturers and others, of Philadelphia, have signed a memorial to Congress, praying that the existing tax of two and a half cents per pound on cotton, of the crop of 1867, be repealed. They say they believe that, by the removal of this tax, it will at once bring the cotton into market, and thereby relieve not only all classes in the Southern States, but also the merchants of all our great commercial cities.

A bill to provide for paying the national debt in greenbacks has been introduced in Congress.

BEWARE THE IDES.—Grant is going to the South, say the radicals, as a new Caesar. Let him remember how his great original fell—"at the foot of Pompey's pillar." There are many Pompeys in the South. In fact, the whole nigger race is one great Pompey-like statue that the radicals have erected. Let Grant take care that he is not slain beneath it by the ideo of March.—New York Herald.

The 102d anniversary of the German Friendly Society—one of the oldest, as well as largest in Charleston—was celebrated on Wednesday night. A bountiful collation was spread, and healths were drunk in temperate ale to the memory of the fathers of the society, and the long roll of its honored dead. The meeting was numerously attended.

MISCEGENATION.—The Yorkville Enquirer has been informed that a white man, lately belonging to the 6th Regiment, United States Infantry, was regularly married in Chester, to a negro woman, on last Sunday evening. The marriage service was performed by a colored preacher.

James Gordon Bennett, Jr., Esq., quondam the managing editor of the New York Herald, and the son of the "old man," proposes to commence planting on one of the islands in the vicinity of Charleston, in conjunction with three or four other capitalists, this year.

A little boy ten years of age, named Jacob Bullach, committed suicide at his mother's residence, in New York, in a fit of despondency, because his elder brother had been sentenced to the island as a confirmed drunkard.

At Fort Black River, Clarendon District, on Saturday night, the store and stock of Messrs. McLaurin & Ingrain, besides a quantity of cotton, were consumed by fire. Incendiarism.

Gov. Bullock, of Massachusetts, in his inaugural message, refers to Gen. Grant as designed by Providence for our next President.

Col. John Cunningham is seriously ill at Laurens, from accidental burn by a kerosene lamp.

Just Received at McKenzie's.
REAL Havana ORANGES.
FINE Malaga GRAPES.
SMYRNA FIGS, in small drums and boxes.
FRESH COCOA-NUTS, North-Carolina APPLES.
GREENFIELD'S ROW,
Near the State House.

CHEAP.
A FINE lot of PERFUMED TOILETTE SOAP, at E. E. JACKSON'S
Jan 17 2 Drug Store.

NOTHING.
CALL and ASK for
A POCKET CALENDAR.
At E. E. JACKSON'S.
No Charge.—Ga Jan 17 2

CHANGE.
THE style of our firm hereafter will be GREGG, PALMER & CO.
Jan 17 3 THOS. E. GREGG & CO.

Napoleon and Blucher.
A Historical Novel, by Muhlbaell.
A Military History of Gen. Grant, by Col. A. Boleau, with Maps.
Evidence of Christianity in Nineteenth Century, by Rev. Albert Barnes.
Gardening for Profit, by Henderson.
Just received and for sale at McCarter's Bookstore, nearly opposite the old Court House.
R. L. BRYAN.
Jan 17

South Carolina—Richland District.
John W. Parker, Executor of J. T. Munds, vs. Ann E. Munds et al.

PURSUANT to decretal order of Chancellor Lesene in the above stated case, January 14, 1868, the creditors of JAMES T. MUNDs are hereby required to establish their demands before me, within three months from date of this publication.
D. B. DESAUSSEURE, C. E. R. D.
Jan 17 113

Vigilant Fire Engine Company.
THE members of this company will attend a meeting at Murray's Hall, THIS EVENING, at 7 1/2 o'clock, for the purpose of enrolling new members. A full attendance is desired, as business of importance will be brought before the meeting. By order:
Jan 17 T. A. GARNER, Secretary.

An eruption of the skin, of thirty years' standing, which defied the skill of the doctors, was cured, in Philadelphia, by using Heintz's Queen's Delight.

Flour! Flour!!
60 BBLs. FLOUR,
150 Sacks FLOUR, from best Family to good Super.
Jan 12 FISHER & LOWRANCE.

STATE TAXES.
ON hand, and for sale, STATE BILLS RECEIVABLE, for all dues to the State.
THOS. E. GREGG & CO.
Jan 11

TO RENT.
THE large DWELLING HOUSE on the South-east corner of Bull and Senate streets. Apply to
Jan 10 JOHN S. GREEN.

The Quaker Liniment; the best liniment for family use; can be used internally and outwardly. It is a great pain destroyer. It kills pain and all kinds of aches. Sold by Fisher & Heintz.

Landreth's Garden Seeds.
A large variety of fresh and reliable SEEDS, just received from that well known house of David Landreth & Sons. Wholesale and retail at
Jan 12 124 E. POLIARD'S.

Planting Potatoes.
50 BBLs. Pink Eye Planting POTATOES, just received and for sale by
Jan 16 J. & T. R. AGNEW.

Local Notes.

CASH—PAY UP.—From and after January 1, 1868, the cash system will be strictly enforced. Persons who are now indebted for subscriptions, and who wish their papers continued, will confer a favor by paying up at once. Those who fail will have their papers discontinued. Cash will also be required for all advertisements. Persons forwarding advertisements from a distance, must send a remittance. Job work cash on delivery.

The Phoenix Weekly Letter Sheet Prices Current and Market Report will be issued this (Friday) afternoon. Those desiring copies, will hand in their orders as early as practicable.

DIED FROM HIS INJURIES.—John Kelly, the post hospital steward, who was so badly injured several days ago, by a horse falling on him, as recorded in the Phoenix, died yesterday morning. His funeral services will be held this afternoon, at 2 o'clock, in the post hospital, inside the camp.

ON ANOTHER "GRAND MARCH TO THE SEA."—It is intimated from Washington that the President is about to despatch Gen. Sherman on a mission to the South, in order to ascertain the real condition of things there, and to report what measures of relief are necessary.

EDUCATION OF THE HORSE.—Prof. J. P. Harper, who claims to be thoroughly skilled in the art or mystery of overcoming the most refractory horses, will give an exhibition today, at 11 o'clock, in front of the ruins of the Court House. A spirited horse will be driven through the streets, without bridle or reins; besides other apparently equally impossible feats. After the exhibition, a lecture will be delivered, to which a general invitation to our citizens is extended. The Sumter (S. C.) Watchman speaks as follows of Prof. H.:

"He explained to his class, in a clear and comprehensive manner, the character of treatment necessary in handling the various kinds of horses, in order to meet and remove their various faults, at the same time exposing many popular errors concerning the management of the horse. Mr. Harper is evidently thoroughly versed in all that pertains to the education of the horse. His system seems to be complete in all its bearings, and is remarkable for its simplicity, and for the ease with which he obtains the most absolute control of the animal. Experiments with several horses here, of well-known faults, who were regarded as incurable, or whose owners had abandoned effort to remove them, exhibited the ease and practicability of his system. He discards entirely the Rarey theory of throwing the horse and worrying him, as a means of gaining control, and acts directly upon the animal sense. In a word, he educates. We would advise all persons who are interested in the management of stock not to allow Prof. H. to pass without availing themselves of his services. They will receive information that will be of great value, and that will enable them to control the most vicious horse with ease."

"An Iowa editor received a pair of gold scissors as a Christmas present." Is it complimentary to give an editor scissors?

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.—The post office open during the week from 8 1/2 a. m. to 6 p. m. On Sundays, from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 p. m.

The Charleston and Western mails are open for delivery at 2 p. m., and close at 9 a. m.

Northern—Open for delivery at 10 1/2 a. m., closes at 1 p. m.

Greenville—Open for delivery at 3 p. m., closes at 8 p. m.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, published this morning for the first time:
E. E. Jackson—Soaps and Calendars.
Notice to Creditors of J. T. Munds.
New Books at McCarter's Bookstore.
Fresh Fruits at McKenzie's.
Thos. E. Gregg & Co.—Change.
Meeting Vigilant Fire Engine Company.

TAKE NOTICE.
WE have just received ten cases Men's BOOTS, comprising all the different qualities; warranted.

Also,
A full supply of Men's, Women's and Children's SHOES, of all the different qualities.

We have also on hand, and are prepared to make to order, every quality of Men's, Women's and Children's BOOTS, SHOES, &c., together with a large stock of French and American CALF SKINS, LININGS, &c., all of which will be sold on a small advance on original cost. Give us a call.

RICHARD FLANIGAN,
Bedell's Row.
Heintz's Queen's Delight, for Tetter, Pimples, Blisters, and Eruptions on the face.